(b) the projects sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh during the current year to meet the shortage of power?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu have been allocated 24% (211 MW) and 36% (316 MW) out of unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region, owing to a surplus situation in the Eastern Region. Agreement has been reached between APSEB/TNEB and NTPC.

POWERGRID transmission system is being used for transmission of Eastern Region power to Southern Region.

(b) One thermal project *viz.* Krishnapatnam 'B' Thermal Power Project (2×260 MW) has been sanctioned by CEA this year for execution in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Project is to be executed by the Private Sector.

Koel-Karo Hydel Power Project

1810. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to proceed with the Koel-Karo Hydel Project in the near future;

(b) if so, the details of the plan of action;

(c) the details of land acquisition plans, rates of compensation of lands and measures taken for rehabilitating the displaced persons; and

(d) the number of people to be displaced by the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Koel Karo Project (710 MW) is being processed for an investment decision based on revised cost estimate. The Project will require an investment of Rs. 2433.30 crores based on July, 1998 price level. A pre-PIB meeting was held on 16.11.1998. Project construction would be taken up after investment approval by the Government.

(c) The total estimated requirement of land for the project is 22680 hectares (Ha.) including private land, forest land and Government land. Out of the required land National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has so far acquired 150 Ha. private land. Necessary action for acquisition of further 645 Ha. of private land is under process. Balance quantity of land will be acquired in a phased manner during the execution of the project as per requirement from time to time. The rate of compensation of the land is ranging from approx. Rs. 98,840/- per Ha. (Minimum) to approx. Rs. 1,50730/- per Ha. (Maximum).

MEASURES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS: The detailed rehabilitation plan to rehabilitate the land oustees has been formulated in pursuance of the directives of the Supreme Court of India.

(d) The number of people to be displaced/affected by the project is estimated at 25,000.

Power needs of N.E. Region

1811. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special efforts have been taken/contemplated to be taken by Government to meet the growing power needs of North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?